Karin Garcia

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Reading 4402

**Student Biography**

I am working with Serina who is in the 3rd grade. She is a bright, talkative, and sweet kid who opened up to me immediately. She just turned 9 and seemed very excited that we would be working together. I was excited as well.

Serina lives with her mother, step father, 17 year old brother, 15 year old sister, and three year old brother. Her real dad lives far away with her uncle and is in the hospital a lot because of diabetes. Her mother and step father work a lot so Serina gets watched by her older sister. She said that her sister plays a lot on her ipad and doesn’t have a lot of time for her. She also said she is mainly the one that has to watch her three year old brother. She seems to have a rough life at home, although you can’t tell by her sunny face. She is always smiling and happy. When she talked about her dad and older sister I could tell that she felt sad but she didn’t say it.

Serina loves to read and check out books from the library. Checking out books from the library is the only way she can read at home. She said she only owns one book at home which was surprising and sad to me. She also mentioned that she hides her book underneath her pillow because if her older sister sees her reading she will call her a dork and if her younger brother sees her reading he will rip it up. It broke my heart to hear this. It’s sad to think that even though she likes to read and wants to she is just beat down for it at home. Her ultimate favorite book is *“Diary of a Wimpy Kid.”* She also likes *“Magic Tree House”* books. She is interested in reading mystery and fantasy books. I hope to incorporate these into our lessons.

In school Serina gets very anxious and nervous. She gets nervous when she has to talk in front of the class and especially when she has to take tests. She is not looking forward to the STAAR test that is coming up. She said when she is taking a test she starts to get dizzy, sweaty, and can’t think straight. When she gets called on in school and when she has to read out loud she is terrified that she is going to mess up and someone is going to make fun of her. I knew that taking high standard tests could cause anxiety but what Serina was describing to me sounded awful. It’s a shame that schools have had to place such demands on students to where they feel this way. Serina says that her teachers say she really tries her best but she feels that she still is falling short in reading. She really likes science and math so I will be incorporating science into our lessons. I also hope to increase her self esteem during our time together.

Outside of school Serina likes to play with her younger brother and her dogs, play games, be with friends and be outside. Her favorite foods are cheese enchiladas, rice, and beans which she says her mom makes for her all the time. When she grows up she wants to be a veterinarian because she loves animals and being able to help them.

I can’t wait to continue to work with Serina. I know this will be a great experience for both of us.